May 1, 2013

Harris Pastides
President

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students:

The University of South Carolina is committed to creating and maintaining an excellent educational experience characterized by civility, integrity, community, citizenship and respect for the dignity and worth of all persons. We support full compliance of federal and state civil rights laws including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and Title IX of Educational Amendments of 1972.

Pursuant to Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, other applicable state laws and University of South Carolina EOP Policy 1.01, 1.02, 1.03 and 1.04, it is illegal to harass or discriminate against any individual (faculty, staff member, student or visitor) on the basis of sex. Specifically, Title IX states that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual violence and sexual misconduct. Title IX also prohibits retaliation against an individual who, in good faith, asserts his or her rights under Title IX or other applicable federal and state laws prohibiting illegal discrimination.

Any student who experiences sexual harassment (including sexual misconduct, sexual assault or sexual violence), harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex is encouraged to contact Mr. Bobby D. Gist, USC Title IX Coordinator or the University’s Student Complaint Coordinator, Deputy Title IX Coordinator Dr. Carl Wells. Title IX offices are located at 1600 Hampton Street, suite 805; telephone is 803-777-3854. Students are also encouraged to contact the USC Police Department, USC Legal Office or USC Office of Student Affairs to report alleged sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual assault or any criminal behavior based upon his or her sex.

Any administrator or supervisor, who receives notice of a student’s complaint of alleged prohibited harassment, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual assault or any other criminal behavior based upon sex or discrimination, must immediately contact and report the complaint to the USC Equal Opportunity Programs Office. (An administrator or supervisor includes: a department chair, associate dean, other administrator, or person in a position with power over a student.) Failure to report any Title IX matter may result in disciplinary action. Procedures for reporting and responding to complaints of discrimination, harassment or retaliation under Title IX are located in USC University Policy titled Prohibited Harassment and Discrimination, available at http://www.sc.edu/eop/.

I am appreciative of your support and full compliance of University policies and procedures as we continue to ensure an educational environment that is discrimination free.

Sincerely,

Harris Pastides

University of South Carolina • Columbia, South Carolina 29208 • 803-777-2001 • Fax 803-777-3264

An Equal Opportunity Institution